

## A 3-step guide for abiding in humility and cleansing compiled by Beth Ann Phifer, March 2019

We follow God's ways because He created us to walk in freedom. *Sin* is simply *walking in our own ways*. The Bible often says, "They did what was right in their own eyes" and "They did not inquire of the Lord to understand His ways." **Repentance, then, is listening to God, agreeing with Him about our sin, and turning away from it by the power of the Holy Spirit.** How do we do this?

### 1. Ask the Father God to search you intimately – Psalm 139:23-24 and 139:2b-3

"Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way."

"You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path. You are intimately acquainted with all my ways."

According to Psalm 139, we ask the Lord:

- Have I hurt myself?
- Have I hurt someone else?
- Have I hurt God?

God will show you the truth as you wait on Him to respond. Understand the difference between:

- *Introspection* is something *we* do, and it is sin. It is self focused and brings bondage.
- *Examination* is something *God* does as we let Him bring light to our heart.

### 2. After we have asked the Father to search us, we have two options, A and B:

#### A. If the Father shows me a specific sin(s) – I go to 1 John 1:9

- *If I sin:* I go to 1 John 1:9
- *If I sin again:* I go to 1 John 1:9 again.
- *If I sin again and again in an area of my life:* I go to 1 John 1:9 again and James 5:16a.

#### B. If the Father does not show me a specific sin – I go to Philippians 3:15

- Don't conjure something up. Let Him reveal it. Be open when He does reveal it.
  - The enemy accuses in generalities.
  - The Father lovingly points to specific sins and gives a way out.
- Remain in the truth; Never apologize if you did nothing wrong. Always apologize if you did.
- In Philippians 3:5, Paul wrote, "Let us, as many as are perfect have this attitude and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you."

To be *perfect* in this verse means to be complete, to walk in victory, or to walk in the light that He has given to you. You can actually be at peace in your walk with God.

If you have sincerely asked God to reveal sin, and He did not, don't let the enemy continue to accuse you. God promises to reveal our bad attitudes as we remain open to Him. We don't have to go searching for them.

### 3. Walk forward in newness of life After we receive Jesus, He gives us a new heart and His Spirit comes to reside in us! As we turn our thoughts, affections, and actions to God to work His way in us, we walk in His life. Our instructions are:

- **Put sin to death** – See Romans 8:11-13b
- **Let Him lead** – (See Romans 8:14)
- **Put on the new self** – (Colossians 3:10)
- **Embrace rebuke** – Proverbs 27:6; 1 Corinthians 5:12; Matthew 18:15; James 5:19; Psalm 133.
- **Choose Him! Choose life!**